

Mobility: immigration alert

April 2021

Canada

Canada bans flights from India and Pakistan for 30 days

Executive summary

The Canadian government has announced new rules surrounding international travel. Effective 11:30 EDT, 22 April 2021, all commercial and private passenger flights from India and Pakistan to Canada are suspended for 30 days.

Background and analysis

This decision to suspend flights is in response to concerns over rising COVID-19 cases and new virus mutations in Canada, particularly the disproportionately higher number of cases among individuals travelling on flights originating from India and Pakistan. The 30-day flight ban is a temporary measure intended to help manage the elevated risk of imported cases of COVID-19 and variants of concern into Canada. Further, this temporary period will give the government and health officials time to assess the evolving situation and determine appropriate measures going forward.

The suspension applies to passenger flights and business aviation flights only. Cargo only operations, medical transfers or military flights will still be permitted in order to maintain shipments of essential supplies. Air passengers who depart from India or Pakistan but arrive in Canada via a third country will be allowed to enter Canada, but enhanced testing regulations apply. Specifically, passengers will need to produce a negative result on a COVID-19 test taken at their last point of departure before boarding an aircraft for the final leg to Canada.

What this means

Employers with employees, or prospective employees, based in India or Pakistan who are required to enter Canada within the next 30 days will be unable to fly directly to Canada.

They may arrange for the individuals to transit through a third country but will require the passenger to be tested for COVID-19 and produce negative test results from their location of departure before their flight to Canada. Please note, depending on the third nation's regulations and restrictions, passengers may be required to remain in customs in that country until they obtain their negative COVID-19 test. The COVID test will need to be a valid PCR test and the employees will need to produce their negative test results in order to board their flights.

A negative test result does not change the mandatory self-isolation requirement within Canada. Travelers who enter Canada via a third-party location will still need to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival and will need to initially isolate for up to three nights at a government authorized hotel, unless otherwise exempted from quarantine requirements. For additional information regarding quarantine requirements and applicable exemptions please visit: [COVID-19 mandatory hotel stopover: About - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugee-citizenship/services/enter-canada/mandatory-hotel-stopover.html)

As a reminder, all travelers to Canada are required to complete the ArriveCAN app prior to their travel to Canada: [Use ArriveCAN: Submit travel information to enter Canada - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugee-citizenship/services/enter-canada/arrivecan.html).

We will continue to monitor and review future developments. For additional information, or if you wish to discuss this further, please contact your EY Law LLP professional.



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